

C.-IN-C. SUMMARIZES A.E.F.'S SHARE IN ALLIED VICTORY

Continued from Page 1

port arrangements for combat, and of the operations of the Service of Supply, and of hospitalization and the evacuation of the sick and wounded; G.G. supervises the various schools and has general direction and co-ordination of education and training.

The first Chief of Staff was Colonel (now Major General) James G. Harbord, who was succeeded in May, 1918, by Major General James W. McAndrew. To these officers, to the Deputy Chief of Staff, and to the assistant chiefs of staff, who as heads of sections aided them, great credit is due for the results obtained, not only in perfecting the general staff organization, but in applying correct principles to the multiplicity of problems that have arisen.

Organization and Training

After a thorough consideration of Allied organizations, it was decided that our combat divisions should consist of four regiments of Infantry of 3,000 men each, with three battalions to a regiment, and four companies of 250 men each to a battalion, and of an Artillery brigade of three regiments, a machine gun battalion, an Engineer regiment, a trench mortar battery, a signal battalion, and a transport battalion. These, with medical and other units, made a total of over 28,000 men, or practically double the size of a French or German division. Each corps would normally consist of six divisions, four combat and one depot and one replacement division, and two regiments of cavalry, and each army of from three to five corps. With four divisions fully trained, a corps could take over an American sector with two divisions in line and two in reserve, with the depot and replacement divisions prepared to fill the gaps in the ranks.

Our purpose was to prepare an integral American force which should be able to take the offensive in every respect. Accordingly, the development of a self-reliant Infantry by thorough drill in the use of the rifle and in the tactics of open warfare was always uppermost in the plan of training after arrival in France. Allowed division and month for acclimatization and instruction in small units from battalions down, a second month in quiet trench sectors by battalions, and a third month after it came out of the trenches when it should be trained as a complete division in war of movement.

Very early a system of schools was outlined and started, having the advantage of instruction by officers direct from the front. At the great school center at Langres one of the first to be organized was the staff school, where the principles of staff work were laid down in our own organization were taught to carefully selected officers. Men in the ranks who had shown qualities of leadership were sent to the school of candidates for commissions. A school of the line taught younger officers the principles of leadership, tactics and the use of the different types of weapons. The Artillery school at Saumur young officers were taught the fundamental principles of modern artillery, while at Issoudun an immense plant was built for training cadets in aviation. These and other schools, with their well-organized curriculum, have been the backbone of our organization, and have contributed in a manner best to develop an efficient army out of willing and industrious young men, many of whom had not before known even the rudiments of military technique. Both Marshal Haig and General Foch placed officers and men at our disposal for instructional purposes, and we are deeply indebted for the opportunities given to profit by their veteran experience.

American Zone

The eventual place the American Army should take on the Western front was to a large extent influenced by the vital questions of transportation and supply. The northern ports of France were crowded by the British Army's shipping and supplies, while the southern ports, though otherwise at our service, had not adequate port facilities for our purposes, and these we should have to build. The already existing railway system behind the front in northern France would not be available for us as lines of supply, and those leading from the southern ports to northeastern France would be unequal to our needs without much new construction. Practically all warehouses, supply depots, and railroads in northern France must be provided by fresh construction. While France offered us such material as she had to spare after a drain of three years of war, yet there were enormous quantities of material to be brought across the Atlantic.

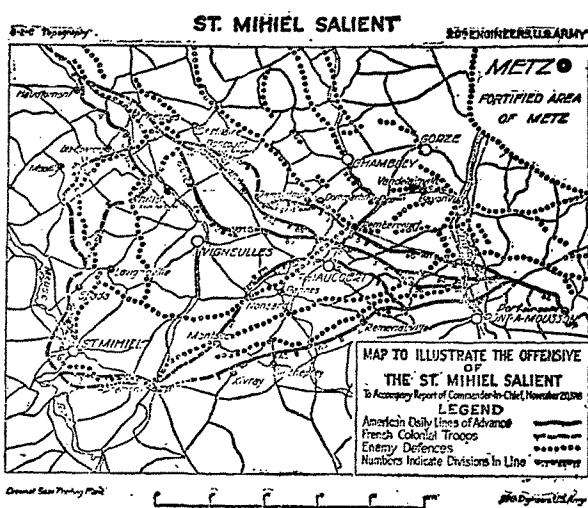
With such a problem in transportation, or lack of definiteness in making plans, might cause failure even with victory within our grasp. Moreover, broad plans commensurate with our national purpose and resources would bring conviction of our power to every soldier in the front line, to the nations associated with us in the war, and to the enemy. The tonnage for material for necessary construction and for the supply of an army of three and perhaps four million men would require a mammoth program of shipbuilding at home and miles of dock construction in France, with a correspondingly large program of additional railroads and for storage depots.

All these considerations led to the inevitable conclusion that if we were to handle and supply the great forces deemed essential to win the war, we must utilize the southern ports of France, Bordeaux, Brest, St. Nazaire and Nantes, and the comparatively unused railway systems leading therefrom to the northeast. Generally speaking, then, this would contemplate the use of our forces against the enemy somewhere in that direction, but the great depots of supply must be located, preferably in the area indicated by Tours, Bourges and Chateauroux, so that our armies could be supplied with equal facility wherever they might be serving on the Western front.

Growth of the Service of Supply

To build up such a system there were talented men in the Regular Army, but more experts were necessary than the Army could furnish. Thanks to the patriotic spirit of our people at home, there came from civil life men trained for every sort of work involved in building and managing an organization that was to handle and transport such an army and keep it supplied. With such assistance the construction and general development of our plans have kept pace with the growth of the forces, and the Service of Supply is now able to discharge from depots and move 45,000 tons daily, besides transporting and storing material necessary in the conduct of active operations.

As to organization, all the administrative and supply service, except the Adjutant General's, Inspector General's, and Judge Advocate General's Departments,



quarters which remain at General Headquarters, have been transferred to the Headquarters of the Service of Supply, and the command of the Service of Supply is now in the hands of the Chief of Staff, the Chief of the American Expeditionary Force. The Chief of Staff, the Chief of the American Expeditionary Force, the Chief of the Service of Supply, the Chief of the Artillery, the Chief of the Engineers, the Chief of the Signal Corps, the Chief of the Cavalry, the Chief of the Medical Service, the Chief of the Veterinary Service, the Chief of the Quartermaster's Department, the Chief of the Commissary Department, the Chief of the Ordnance Department, the Chief of the Transportation Department, the Chief of the Postal Service, the Chief of the Pay Department, the Chief of the Adjutant General's Department, the Chief of the Inspector General's Department, and the Chief of the Judge Advocate General's Department, all of whom are members of the General Staff, are now in the hands of the Chief of Staff, the Chief of the American Expeditionary Force.

The Transportation Department under the Service of Supply directs the operation of the railroads, the operation of the roads, the unloading of ships and transportation of material to warehouses or to the front. Its functions make necessary the most intimate relationship between our organization and that of the French, with the practical result that our transportation department has been able to improve materially the operation of railways generally. Constantly laboring under a shortage of rolling stock, the transportation department has nevertheless been able by efficient management to meet every emergency.

The Engineer Corps is charged with all construction, including light railways and roads. It has planned and constructed the many projects required, the most important of which are the new wharves at Bordeaux and Nantes, and the immense storage depots at La Palisse, Mithras, and Clermont. It has also constructed the numerous hospitals and barracks in various parts of France. These projects have all been carried on by phases keeping pace with our needs. The Forestry Service under the Engineer Corps has met the greater part of the timber and railway fuel requirements.

To meet the shortage of supplies from America, due to lack of shipping, the representatives of the different supply departments were constantly in search of available material and supplies in Europe. In order to co-ordinate these purchases and to prevent competition between our departments, a central purchasing agency was created early in our experience to co-ordinate our purchases and, if possible, induce our Allies to apply the principle among the Allied armies. While there was no authority for the general use of appropriations, this was met by grouping the purchasing representatives of the different departments under one control, charged with the duty of consolidating requisitions and purchases. Our efforts to extend the principle have been signally successful, and all purchases for the Allied armies are now on an equitable and co-operative basis. Indeed, it may be said that the work of this bureau has been thoroughly efficient and businesslike.

Artillery, Airplanes and Tanks

Our entry into the war found us with few of the auxiliaries necessary for its conduct in the modern sense. Among the most important deficiencies in material were artillery, aviation and tanks. In order to meet our requirements as rapidly as possible, we accepted the offer of the French Government to provide us with the necessary artillery equipment of 75's, 155's, howitzers and 155's C.P. from their own factories for 30 divisions. The wisdom of this course is fully demonstrated by the fact that, although we soon began the manufacture of these classes of guns at home, there were no guns of the calibers mentioned manufactured in America on our front at the date the armistice was signed. The only guns of these types produced at home thus far received in France are 105 75mm. guns.

In aviation we were in the same situation, and here again the French Government came to our aid until our own aviation program should be under way. We obtained from the French the necessary planes for training our personnel, and they have provided us with a total of 2,676 pursuit, observation and bombing planes. The first airplane received from home arrived in May, and altogether we have received 1,370 planes. The first American squadron completely equipped by American production, including airplanes, crossed the German lines on August 7, 1918. As to tanks, we were also compelled to rely upon the French. Here, however, we were less fortunate, for the reason that the French production could barely meet the requirements of their own armies.

The French Government has always taken a most liberal attitude and has been most anxious to give us every possible assistance in meeting our deficiencies in these as well as other respects. Our dependence upon France for artillery, aviation and tanks was of course, the fact that our industries had not been exclusively devoted to military production. All credit is due our own manufacturers for their efforts to meet our requirements, as at the time the armistice was signed we were able to look forward to the early supply of practically all our necessities from our own factories.

Welfare of the Troops

The welfare of the troops touches my responsibility as Commander-in-Chief to the mothers and fathers and kindred of the men who came to France in the terrible period of combat. They could not have the privilege accorded European soldiers during their periods of leave of visiting their families and renewing their home ties. Fully realizing that the standard of conduct that should be established for them must have a

permanent influence in their lives and on the character of their future citizenship, the Red Cross, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Salvation Army, and the Jewish Welfare Board, as auxiliaries in this work, were encouraged in every possible way. The fact that our soldiers, in a land of different customs and language, have borne themselves in a manner in keeping with the cause for which they fought, is due not only to the efforts in their behalf, but much more to their high ideals, their discipline and their innate sense of self-respect. It should be recorded, however, that the members of these welfare societies have been untiring in their desire to be of real service to our boys and men. The patriotic devotion of these representative men and women has given a new significance to the Golden Rule, and we owe to them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Combat Operations

During our periods of training in the trenches some of our divisions had engaged the enemy in local combats. The most important of which was Selchepre, by the 29th on April 20th, in the Tonn sector, but none had participated in action as a unit. The 1st Division which had passed through the preliminary stages of training had gone into the trenches for its first period of instruction at the end of October, and by March 21, when the German offensive in Picardy began, we had four divisions with experience in the trenches, all of which were equal to any demands of battle.

The crisis which this offensive developed was such that our organization of an American sector must be postponed. On March 28 I placed at the disposal of Marshal Foch, who had been agreed upon as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies, all of our forces to be used as he might decide. At his request the 1st Division was transferred from the Tonn sector to a position in reserve at Chateau-en-Vexin. As German superiority in numbers required prompt action, an agreement was reached at the Abbeville conference of the Allied commanders and Commanders and myself on May 2, by which British divisions were to transport ten American divisions to the British army area where they were to be trained and equipped, and additional British shipping was to be provided for as many divisions as possible for use elsewhere.

On April 26 the 1st Division had gone into the line in the Montdidier salient on the Picardy front. Tactics had been suddenly revolutionized to those of open warfare, and our men confident of the results of their training were eager for the test. On the morning of May 28 this division attacked the commanding German position in its front, taking with splendid dash the town of Cantigny and all other objectives which were organized and held steadfastly against vicious counterattacks and galling artillery fire. Although local, this brilliant action had an electrical effect as it demonstrated our fighting qualities under extreme battle conditions, and also that our enemy's troops were not altogether invincible.

The Germans' Alsace offensive which began on May 27 had advanced rapidly toward the river Marne and Paris, and the Allies faced a crisis equally as grave as that of October 1918. In March, again every available man was placed at Marshal Foch's disposal, and the 3rd Division, which had just come from its preliminary training area, was hurled to the Marne. Its motorized machine gun battalion preceded the other units and successfully held the bridgehead at the Marne opposite Chateau-Thierry. The 2nd Division, in reserve near Montdidier, was sent by motor trucks and other available transport to check the progress of the enemy toward Paris. The division attacked the German forces and steadily held its ground against the enemy's best Guard divisions. In the battle of Belleau Wood which followed, our men proved their superiority and gained a strong tactical position with far greater loss to the enemy than to ourselves. On July 1, before the 2nd and 3rd divisions captured the village of Vaux with most splendid precision.

Meanwhile, our Second Corps, under Major General George W. Read, had been organized for the command of our divisions with the British which were held back in training areas or assigned to second line defense. Five of the ten divisions were withdrawn from the British area in June, three to relieve divisions in Lorraine and the Vosges, and two to the Paris area to join the group of American divisions which stood between the city and any further advance of the enemy in that direction.

The great June-July troop movement from the States was well under way, and, although these troops were to be given some preliminary training before being put into action, their very presence was wanted in the front. The divisions in the confidence that they had no lack of reserves. Elements of the 42nd Division were in the line east of Rheims against the German offensive of July 15, and held their ground unflinchingly. On the right flank of this offensive force, the 28th Division, which was in position in face of the advancing waves of the German infantry. The 3rd Division was holding the bank of the Marne from the bend east of the mouth of the Sormelle to the west of Metz, opposite Chateau-Thierry, where a large force of German infantry sought to force a passage under support of powerful artillery concentrations and under cover of smoke screens. A single regiment of the 3rd wrote one of the most brilliant pages in our military annals on this occasion. It prevented the

crossing at certain points on its front, while on either flank, the Germans who had gained a footing, pressed forward. Our men firing in three directions met the German attacks with counterattacks at critical points, and succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete confusion capturing six hundred prisoners.

The great force of the German Chateau-Thierry offensive established the deep salient, but the enemy was taking chances and the vulnerability of this pocket to attack might be turned to his disadvantage. Seizing the opportunity to support my conviction, every division with any sort of training was made available for use in a counter offensive. On July 18, the 1st Division thrust toward Soissons on July 18 was given to our 1st and 2nd Divisions in company with chosen French divisions. Without the usual brief warning of a preliminary bombardment, the massed French and American artillery firing by the map laid down the galling barrage which the German infantry bore in its charge. The tactical handling of our troops under these trying conditions was excellent throughout the action. The enemy brought up large numbers of reserves and made a stubborn defense both with machine guns and desire to be of real service to our boys and men. The 1st Division continued to advance until it had gained the heights above Soissons, and captured the village of Berzy-le-Sec. The 2nd Division took Beaurepaire farm and Vierzy in a very rapid advance and reached a position east of Soissons on the evening of its second day. These two divisions captured 7,000 prisoners and over 100 pieces of artillery.

The 26th Division which with a French division was under command of our First Corps acted as a pivot of the movement toward Soissons. On the 15th it took the village of Tervy while the 3rd Division was crossing the Marne in pursuit of the retreating enemy. The 26th attacked again on the 21st and the enemy withdrew past the Chateau-Thierry-Soissons road. The 3rd Division continuing its progress took the village of Montigny and the heights of Charleville and Jaulgonne in the face of both machine gun and artillery fire.

On the 24th, after the Germans had fallen back from Trugny and Epiede, our 42nd Division which had been in position in front of the enemy, moved the 26th and fighting its way through the Forest de Fere, overwhelmed the nests of machine guns in its path. By the 27th it had reached the Ourcq whence the 3rd and 4th Divisions were already advancing while the French divisions with which we were cooperating were moving forward at other points.

The 3rd Division had made its advance into Ronchères wood on the 29th and was relieved for rest by a brigade of the 32nd. The 42nd and 32nd undertook the task of conquering the heights around Chateau-Thierry. The 42nd captured Serzy and the 32nd capturing Hill 230 both American divisions joining in the rapid pursuit of the enemy to the Vesle and thus the operation of reducing the salient was finished. Meanwhile the 42nd was relieved by the 4th at Chateau-Thierry, and the 32nd by the 28th while the 7th Division took up a position on the Vesle. The operations of these divisions on the Vesle were under the Third Corps, Major General Robert L. Bullard, commanding.

Battle of Saint Mihiel

With the reduction of the Marne salient we could look forward to the concentration of our divisions in our own zone. In view of the forthcoming operation against the Saint Mihiel salient which had long been planned as our first offensive action on a large scale the First Army was organized August 10 under my personal command. While American units had held different Divisional and Corps sectors all along the Western Front, there had not been up to this time, for obvious reasons, a distinct American sector, but in view of the important part the American forces were now to play, it was necessary to take over a permanent portion of the line. Accordingly on August 30 the line beginning at Port-sur-Selle east of the Moselle and extending to the west through Saint Mihiel, thence north to a point opposite Verdun was placed under my command. The American sector was afterward extended across the Meuse to the western edge of the Argonne forest and included the 2nd Colonial French, which held the point of the salient, and the 17th French Corps which occupied the heights above Verdun.

The preparation for a complicated operation against the formidable defenses in front of us included the assembling of divisions of all arms and of our artillery, transport, air craft, tanks, ambulances, the location of hospitals, and the moulding together of all the elements of a great modern army with its own railroads, supplied directly by our own Service of Supply. The concentration for this operation which was to be a surprise involved the movement mostly at night of approximately 600,000 troops, and required for its success the most careful attention to every detail.

The French were generous in giving us assistance in corps and army artillery with its personnel, and we were confident from the start of our superiority over the enemy in guns of all calibers. Our heavy guns were able to reach Metz and to interfere seriously with German rail movements. The French independent air force was placed under my command which, together with the British bombing squadrons and our own air forces, gave us the largest assembly of aviation that ever been engaged in one operation on the Western Front.

From Les Eparges around the nose of the salient of Saint Mihiel to the Moselle River the line was roughly 40 miles long and situated on commanding ground, greatly strengthened by artificial defenses. Our First Corps (32nd, 90th, 5th and 2nd Divisions) under command of Major General Hunter Liggett, resting its right on Pont-a-Mousson, with its left joining our Third Corps (30th, 42nd and 1st Divisions) under Major General Joseph E. Dickman, in line to Xivray, were to swing in toward Vigneulles on the pivot of the Moselle River for the initial assault. From Xivray to Monville the Second Colonial French Corps was in the line, and the 5th and 17th French Corps, under command of Major General George H. Cameron, with the 26th and 4th Divisions and a French division at the western base of the salient were to attack three difficult hills, Les Eparges, Combrès, and Amaranthe. Our First Corps had in reserve the 75th Division and the 4th Corps the 3rd Division, and our First Army the 35th and 51st Divisions, with the 80th and 33rd available. It should be understood that our corps organizations are very elastic, and that we have at no time had permanent assignments of divisions to corps. After four hours artillery preparation, the seven American divisions in the front line advanced at 5 a.m. on September 12, assisted by a limited number of tanks manned partly by Americans and

partly by the French. These divisions, accompanied by groups of wire cutters and other armed with Bangalore torpedoes, went through the successive bands of barbed wire that protected the enemy's front line and support trenches in irresistible waves on schedule time breaking down all defense of an enemy demoralized by the great volume of our artillery fire and our sudden appearance out of the fog.

Our First Corps took Thiaucourt, while our Fourth Corps curved back to the southwest through Nonsard. The Second Colonial French Corps made the slight advance required of it on very difficult ground, and the Fifth Corps took its three ridges and repulsed counter attack. A rapid march brought reserve regiments of a division of the Fifth Corps into Vigneulles in the early morning where it linked up with patrols of our Fourth Corps, closing the salient and forming a new line west of Thiaucourt to Vigneulles and beyond Fresnoy-en-Woevre. At the cost of only 7,000 casualties, mostly light, we had taken 16,000 prisoners and 443 guns, a great quantity of material, released the inhabitants of many villages from enemy domination and established our lines in a position to threaten Metz. The signal success of the new American First Army, in its first offensive was of prime importance. The Allies found they had a formidable army to aid them, and the enemy learned finally that he had one to reckon with.

(The Meuse-Argonne battle and other operations will be described in the concluding installment.)

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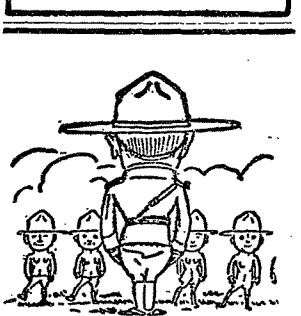
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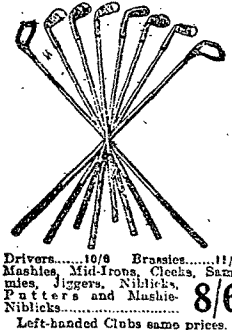
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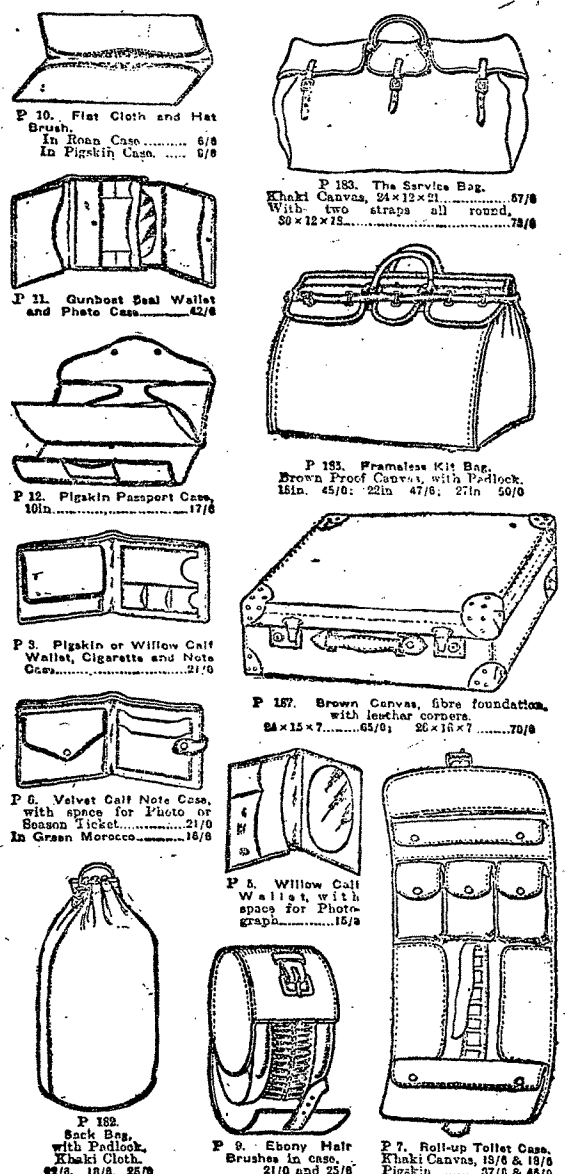
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